

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Telecommunications and Energy  
Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company  
Docket No. D.T.E. 02-24/25  
Record Request Response

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**Record Request No.: AG-RR-23 (Electric)**

Indicate the number of load-research meters that FG&E has in the field for each rate class, when the meters were last read, when the load-research meters were last tested and recalibrated, how often the meters were relocated to gather a new sample, and when the meters were last relocated to gather a new sample.

**Response:**

(a) FG&E has the following number of load research meters currently in the field:

Residential:	126
GD-1:	36
GD-2:	68
GD-3:	35
GD-4:	<u>2</u>
Total:	267

- (b) The majority of the interval recorders have been read within the last two months. The billing meters are read on a monthly basis.
- (c) The load research recorders for residential, GD-1 and GD-2 were last tested and recalibrated in 1993 prior to the installation of the current sample.
- (d) The Electric Division does not have a standard time period for resampling its residential, GD-1 and GD-2 classes. The Electric Division maintains interval recorders on all of its GD-3 customers on a continual basis.
- (e) The last load research sample was installed in 1993. Ms. Asbury incorrectly stated in the hearings on August 15, 2002 that the load research sample stemmed from the 1990 rate design case (Tr. At 0733, lines 1-4). The current sample was redesigned and implemented in 1993 to incorporate the rate class changes resulting from the implementation of the 1990 rate design case. It was the 1993 sample which provided the data for 1998.

As described by Ms. Asbury (Tr. at 0733-4 and 0737), the load research sample has deteriorated since the last sample redesign. Load research has not been a major focus in recent years as personnel normally assigned to these tasks have been utilized in meeting the requirements of FG&E in other areas. Load research is an expensive and labor intensive undertaking to design and implement. The analysis of load research data is a very labor intensive task. The load research sample maintained by FG&E does not provide statistically significant estimates. Hence, FG&E used 1998 data which FG&E, in its judgement, reasonably believed provided a more reliable estimate. Nevertheless, FG&E continues to analyze all load research data associated with its largest customers, the GD-3 class.

**Person Responsible:** Karen M. Asbury